



October 3, 2000
Supersedes April 30, 1996

Matls. I.M. 376

METHOD OF TEST
PRESENCE OF A MOISTURE-PROOF COATING ON GLASS BEADS
(GENERAL REWRITE)

SCOPE

This test method is intended to determine if glass beads used to reflectorize traffic markings have a moisture-proof coating. A moisture-proof coating is obtained by coating the bead with silicone or with a dual coating which is a combination of silicone and silane.

This test will only detect if a bead has a moisture-proof coating. It will not distinguish between a silicone coating and a dual coating.

NOTE: Waterborne paint requires a dual coated bead. VOC-compliant, solvent-borne paint requires uncoated beads.

APPARATUS

1. Paper cup or other small container suitable for holding water
2. Spoon

TEST PROCEDURE

1. Fill the cup with tap water.
2. Take a spoonful of beads and dip it into the cup for approximately five seconds, then remove.

Moisture-proof, coated beads (either silicone, or dual coated) will bead the water and will not be wetted. Uncoated beads will be thoroughly wetted and will become a clumped mass of beads.

NOTE: To determine if the beads have a dual coating, a sample must be sent into the Central Laboratory. This is a more involved test, which requires special chemicals and equipment.